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Reveal CIA Junks Viet Program

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WASHINGTON — The Central Intelligence Agency has been forced to abandon a major program for creating a militant pro-government cadre in South Viet Nam because many of the recruits turned to anti-government activity.

The Saigon regime took control of the program last month when it discovered the cadre was being secretly indoctrinated in a "third force" philosophy hostile to both the Communists and the government.

The indoctrination was conducted, apparently without the CIA's approval, by a South Vietnamese army major, Le Xuan Mai, who ran a training camp for the CIA at Vungtau, a seashore city 50 miles from Saigon.

However, the CIA was aware of the possibility of such a development from the start, as is evident from the original proposal for the program, a copy of which has been obtained by The Sun-Times.

"The cadre created by this program," the proposal stated, "will not necessarily be supportive of the factions now in power. The program must be conducted in such a manner as to allay possible misgivings by the Vietnamese government."

In that, however, the CIA clearly failed. In taking over the program last month, the government charged that there had been large scale infiltration of South Viet Nam's propaganda and pacification teams by Major Mai's specially - indoctrinated men.

They reportedly were trained to give the appearance of supporting the present regime while waiting for the proper moment to replace it with a more progressive government.

The CIA was alerted to such risks when the program was proposed two years ago by the Simulmatics Corp., a private

research organization drawing heavily on university experts. Simulmatics launched the program for the CIA and provided, in its own words, "additional cover" to avoid direct U.S. involvement."

Simulmatics provides a way for scholars to do secret work for the government without directly involving their university. Michigan State University came under attack in April for providing support and cover for the CIA in a multimillion-dollar police training program in Viet Nam. Critics claimed such arrangements seriously compromise academic freedom and independence.

Similarly, after much criticism, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology announced in May it was severing all connections with the CIA which had financed its center for international studies since its inception in 1951.

An MIT political science professor, Ithiel De Sola Pool, was one of four scholars who founded Simulmatics in 1961. The others were Robert Abelson, Yale psychology professor; James Coleman, John Hopkins social relations professor, and William McPhee, Colorado University sociology professor.

The corporation made it clear from the outset that it was interested in recruiting idealistic Vietnamese who might be annoyed by the easy morality of many members of the regime.

Simulmatics opened the original proposal by stating:

"On the loyalist side there are few young men in Viet Nam who are committed to building up the country rather than helping themselves and their families. Perhaps the culture does not promote civic commitment, but the Viet Cong have been able to produce it."

"There are but few young men on the loyalist side who are willing to devote themselves to the welfare of the villagers. There are many more in the Viet Cong."

"The energetic young men on the government side are mostly middle class and urban. There are but few young men on the government side who understand mass organization and work at it. There are many more in the Viet Cong and other oppositionist groups."

"There are but few young men on the loyalist side who are scrupulously honest and deeply committed to winning. There are many more in the Viet Cong."

"Whatever may happen in Viet Nam in the short run, in the long run there will be no sufficiently stable victory over communism to permit us to call out our troops until there is the kind of cadre that is now missing."

Simulmatics proposed recruitment of "very able young men, not presently in highly responsible or favored positions."

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